GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
ENVIRONMENT, FORESTS AND CLIMATE CHANGE
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:1570
ANSWERED ON:03.05.2016
Conservation of Rivers and Lakes
Chowdhary Shri Pankaj

Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT, FORESTS AND CLIMATE CHANGE be pleased to state:

(a) the total number of projects sanctioned under National River Conservation Plan and National Lake Conservation Scheme in the country and the number of projects completed out of these along with the number of those projects which could not be completed;

(b) whether any shortcoming has been identified in the said schemes;

(c) if so, whether the Government proposes to formulate a fresh plan/ programme for the conservation of rivers and lakes in the country; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE (INDEPENDENT CHARGE) FOR ENVIRONMENT, FOREST AND CLIMATE CHANGE (SHRI PRAKASH JAVADEKAR)

(a) to (d)This Ministry has been supplementing the efforts of the State Governments in abatement of pollution in identified stretches of various rivers under National River Conservation Plan (NRCP) and NGRBA (National Ganga River Basin Authority) programmes. The NGRBA programme along with work of Ganga & its tributaries is with Ministry of Water Resources, River Development & Ganga Rejuvenation from 01/08/2014 onwards. The programmes of NRCP & NGRBA (till 31/07/2014) have so far covered polluted stretches of 43 rivers in 200 towns spread over 21 States at a sanctioned cost of `12202.59 crore and sewage treatment capacity of 5169 million litres per day (mld) has been created so far under these two programmes. Under the NRCP (excluding Ganga and its tributaries), 265 schemes have been completed out of 352 schemes sanctioned so far.

The Government has in 2014 also initiated an Integrated Ganga Conservation Mission - 'Namami Gange' under the NGRBA programme for consolidating the ongoing efforts & planning for an integrated and comprehensive action plan for rejuvenation of Ganga and its tributaries.

For conservation and management of identified lakes and wetlands in the country, this Ministry had been earlier implementing two separate programmes, namely National Lake Conservation Plan (NLCP) and National Wetland Conservation Programme (NWCP). To have better synergy and to avoid overlap, both the programmes have been merged in February, 2013 into a new integrated scheme of National Plan for Conservation of Aquatic Eco-systems (NPCA). So far projects for conservation of 63 lakes in 14 States have been sanctioned at a total cost of `1096.09 crores under the NLCP/NPCA, and work of 33 lakes has been completed.

Implementation of works in some NRCP & NLCP schemes have been delayed due to issues relating to land acquisition, court cases, cost over-runs and other local administrative reasons. Several measures taken to improve implementation of projects under NRCP & NLCP include (i) signing of a Tripartite Memorandum of Agreement (MoAs) with the State Government/urban local bodies for ensuring timely implementation of projects and proper operation & maintenance of assets created (ii) independent appraisal of Detailed Project Reports by reputed professional/academic institutions & (iii) Third Party Inspection for projects.

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